

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. R.S. Munger, February 5, 1902

1902, Feb. 5. Mr. R. S. Munger, Birmingham, Alabama. My dear Sir:—

Many thanks for your note of January 29, and for the pictures of those dear little children.

I have sent to Mrs. Munger, of Mexia, Texas, copies of my correspondence with Miss Sullivan and Miss Curren, for her information, and have recommended her to write directly to these ladies if she desires to pursue the matter further. Understanding that Mrs. Munger has a good private teacher at home, I would not recommend any change in Margurite's education at the present time.

It would give me great pleasure to receive a visit from you here, but at the same time I do not think there is any necessity for a conference at the present time in relation to Miss Sullivan, until we know more about her plans.

I am very much pleased with the pictures you have been kind enough to send to me. Margurite is a beautiful child, and little Henry is just as sweet and cunning as he can be.

By the by, there is one peculiarity that strikes me in looking at the small photograph, that I would not care to mention to Mr. and Mrs. Munger unless it turned out to be significant. Both children have their mouths open. It is now known that deafness in some cases is the result of an excessive enlargement of the adenoid growth in the top of the pharynx, and that this is capable of amelioration by the removal of the growth. The growth occasions 2 considerable obstruction in the nasal passages, so that children suffering from deafness caused by this growth habitually breath through their mouths, so that the habitual openness of the mouth becomes a characteristic feature.

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I presume that Mr. and Mrs. Munger have had their children examined by a competent physician or aurist, and I would not therefore care to direct their attention to this point unless it should turn out that the children have not been examined by an aurist. You will probably know, and should they not have been specially examined for the adenoid growth, it might be a matter of importance to direct their parent's attention to this matter.

Very sincerely yours, Alexander Graham Bell